

Message Text

SECRET

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71

ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-11 SCEM-02 INT-08

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 XMB-07 OMB-01 RSR-01

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APPROVED BY EUR:GSSPRINGSTEEN

EUR/SOV:JFMATLOCK

EUR/NE:SGEORGE

EB/ORF/FSE:GBROWN (INFORMED)

TREASURY:ECRENDALL

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P 192336Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 142345

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, UR, NO, US

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN INQUIRY CONCERNING POSSIBLE US-SOVIET
GAS DEAL

REF: STATE 141411, OSLO 2589

1. NORWEGIAN EMBASSY SECOND SECRETARY TODAY SPECIFICALLY
INQUIRED WHETHER USG SUPPORTS CONSORTIUM REP KENDALL'S
REQUEST THAT NORWEGIAN AUTHORITIES CONSIDER WHETHER
LIQUEFACTION FACILITIES IN QUESTION SHOULD BE BUILT
ON NORWEGIAN TERRITORY. DEPARTMENT OFFICER SAID THAT
WE ENCOURAGE AMERICAN FIRMS TO WORK OUT CONCRETE PROJECTS
BUT THAT PROJECTS HAVE TO STAND ON OWN MERIT. WE SUP-
PORT STUDY OF PROJECT AND THAT NORWEGIANS RECEIVE CON-

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SORTIUM REPRESENTATIVES. HOWEVER, PROJECT IS STILL

IN VERY PRELIMINARY STAGE AND USG WILL REQUIRE MUCH MORE INFORMATION THAN WE NOW HAVE BEFORE WE CAN TAKE POSITION ON MERITS OF PROJECT.

2. RE ORIGIN OF IDEA THAT LIQUEFACTION PLANT BE SITUATED IN NORTH NORWAY, IT IS OUR INFORMATION THAT IN WORKING-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS IN LATE JUNE, SOVIET NEGOTIATORS MENTIONED AS AN ALTERNATIVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LIQUEFACTION PLANT IN NORTH NORWAY RATHER THAN NEAR MURMANSK AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED. THIS WAS ADVANCED AS A WAY OF REDUCING SOVIET DEBT EXPOSURE (OF TOTAL

ESTIMATED DOLS 3.5 BILLION DEBT USSR WOULD INCUR FOR NORTH STAR OVER DOLS 1.4 BILLION WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY COST OF LIQUEFACTION PLANT PLUS RELATED PORT FACILITIES). UNDER THIS IDEA THERE WOULD BE NO SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN THE CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION OR FINANCING OF LIQUEFACTION PLANT. RUSH

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NNN

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